

Helicopter Noise Hearing Statement

Helicopter noise in LA is a very serious problem. For years, my constituents have complained of low flying, thunderous helicopter traffic over their homes at all hours, day and night.

Last August, one constituent wrote to say “just today there have been at least 30-40 flyovers of my house— which is becoming quite typical. One flyby was so low this morning it set off car alarms.” She noted that during the five minutes it took her to write the email, five other helicopters had flown overhead.

Another constituent told me that “I was awoken five times in the middle of the night this last evening, and once at 6 am.” He counted 60 occurrences in one day alone.

As these stories show, the status quo is indefensible and unacceptable. That is why I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 456, the Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2013, and will continue to work hard for its passage and enactment.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has made some limited progress, but in the next few months it must set firm milestones for additional action. It must take concrete steps that lead to substantial and measureable noise reduction. If these steps fail to produce results, and if the FAA fails to take further action, Congress must act.